

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, independent Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more particularly recite certain distinctive features of Applicants' invention as well as for clarity, and Claims 3-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The withdrawal of Claims 10, 12, 14-15, 17, 20-21 and 23 from consideration is acknowledged. The withdrawn claims have been so labeled herein. New Claims 30-35 have been added in order to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Withdrawn claims 10, 12, 14, 15, and 23 have also been amended for clarity in order to place them in better condition for rejoinder and allowance in view of the allowability of Claims 1 and 2. Newly presented Claims 30-35 are dependent from non-elected claims and thus will also be subject to rejoinder upon indication of allowability of their respective linking claim.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima; and Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Khoshnevis.

Without acceding to the rejections, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the light path switching section guides an image displayed on the display section to the objective lens.

It is apparent that neither Nakajima nor Khoshnevis teaches or suggests the above-discussed feature. For example, in Nakajima, a reflecting mirror 50 guides an image displayed on display panel 32 to the ocular lens 3Lc to be observed through the ocular lens. Similarly, in Khoshnevis, an image displayed on LCD 48 is guided by beam splitters 34 to ocular lenses 19a, 19b to be observed through eyepieces 18a, 18b. Therefore, in contrast to Applicants' invention, neither Nakajima nor Khoshnevis teaches or suggests guiding an image displayed on a display section to the objective lens.

Claim 1 therefore distinguishes patentably from Nakajima and Khoshnevis.

Claim 2 defines over Nakajima and Khoshnevis for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

As the pending non-elected claims are now allowable in view of the allowability of Claims 1 and 2, rejoinder and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10644) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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